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Faculty Senate Minutes

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# Faculty Senate Minutes - April 1, 2016

USM Faculty Senate

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### Recommended Citation

USM Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes - April 1, 2016" (2016). *Faculty Senate Minutes*. Paper 186.  
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**The University of Southern Mississippi  
Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
Cook Library 123 – IVN Hardy Green Hall 316  
April 1, 2016**

**Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M. Alford, J. Anderson (D. Holt), D. Booth, J. Brown, M. Coyne (D. Holt), K. Davis, B. Green, K. Greene, C. Handley, B. Harbaugh, B. Hayden, F. Heitmuller, L. Hill, D. Holt, S. Hrostowski, J. Lambers, P. Linden, H. Lyn, M. McLelland, C. Miller, S. Milroy, E. Molaison (T. Rehner), L. Neelis, W. Odom, J. Olmi (T. Welsh), L. Rackoff, T. Rehner, T. Rishel, S. Rouse, E. Saillant (S. Milroy), K. Shelley (T. Welsh), C. Sirola (F. Heitmuller), C. Tardy, A. Thompson (D. Booth), B. Tinnon, M. Van Norden, T. Welsh, J. White, K. Zantow**

**Members Absent: D. Capper, K. Cochran, M. Grivno, C. McCormick, S. Reischman-Fletcher, K. Rhinehart**

**Guests: Bill Powell, Karen Reidenback**

1.0 Call to Order by Pres.-Elect Holt – 2:08pm

2.0 Adoption of Agenda – move to adopt by Sen. Hill, second by Sen. Miller, approved unanimously by voice vote

3.0 Approval of March Minutes – move to approve by Sen. Rouse, second by Sen. Rackoff, approved unanimously by voice vote

4.0 Fall 2015 Title IX Complaints, Becky Malley, Title IX Coordinator

- 28 complaints fall 2015 semester
- Faculty are the ones who are referring students to her for the most part
- Paul Walters is working with Faculty Handbook Committee

Question: What about informal complaints?

Malley: These are kept in a file so it could be pulled up if there were other issues involving the same person

Question: Are you neutral, represent the University, or represent complainant?

Malley: I am a facilitator

Question: If there is a complaint, who investigates?

Malley: A panel investigates.

Question: How do the number of complaints at our university compare to other universities?

Malley: It is comparable/similar to other universities our size.

Question: Are there trends faculty need to become aware of?

Malley: See the handouts for trends; it seems that faculty are helping/encouraging students to report more than previously.

Question: Do students know where to go in cases of sexual assault?

Malley: There is more communication so that Resident Life and Counseling Centers know to contact her immediately.

Question: If an incident report is files and a person indicted, what happens?

Malley: There is a process in communications to make that public.

Question: Under FERPA, isn't there an exception to get student's psychological records?

Malley: I will check on that and get back to you.

Question: Were all the complaints from Hattiesburg?

Malley: No, some were from Hattiesburg, some from the Coast – see the handout.

Question: What should be reported to you?

Malley: Sexual misconduct or any behaviors related to sexual misconduct.

## 5.0 Senate Officer Reports

### 5.1 President – Pres.-Elect Holt presented report from Pres. Anderson

- 5.1.1 Summer School - In the past month, the Provost has been studying summer school models and has been compiling data. He envisions summer school as a part of a comprehensive strategic plan. There will be a committee formed (of faculty members) at some point in the near future to address summer school.
- 5.1.2 Consulting Firm - Last month, the Offices of the Provost and the Vice-President of Finance and Administration enlisted the services of Ruffalo Noel-Levitz (RNL) for an on-campus assessment to provide a constructive review of enrollment management at USM. The assessment covered marketing, recruitment, financial aid, tuition pricing, and retention strategies. RNL was on campus on March 14 and 15 to solicit perspectives from a variety of groups on our campuses. The Executive Cabinet met with RNL, and I am pleased to announce that in discussing what we are doing right, faculty-student interaction was at the top of the list. Drs. Moser, Vinzant, and Burke and Bill McGillis all echoed the sentiment. We await the final report, but an immediate need to be addressed is the website, and work has already commenced.
- 5.1.3 Academic Leadership Council - The Provost decided to not wait to reconfigure Academic Leadership Council. Beginning this month, the ALC will be comprised of the chair and chair-elect of standing governance and advisory bodies. The ALC will meet twice per month. One meeting per month will be alone, and the other will be with the deans. The Deans' Council will remain intact, and the other people who report directly to the Provost (David Sliman, Sheri Lyons, etc.) will meet separately. The Provost has agreed to allow all four officers of the senate, but we need to decide if that is needed or whether only the President and President-elect will attend. As officer elections are coming up, this new duty is an important consideration for new candidates.
- 5.1.4 Publishing Raises - The President is following through with the commitment he made last year to periodically publish raises between the printings of budget books. Dr. Vinzant is working with Allyson Easterwood and Linda Rasmussen to determine how to best accomplish the task. It is anticipated that they will be published twice per year (in addition to the budget book itself).
- 5.1.5 Foundation Scholarship - James Fox was awarded \$949 He has an anticipated graduation date of May 2017, 111 hours GPA 3.36, Child of James Fox in Educational Leadership.

5.1.6 VP of Student Affairs Search - The VP of Student Affairs search is to commence formally in August. The expected start date is January 2017. Tom Burke will transition into the Provost's office, though it is not clear (to anyone) right now what his role and function will be.

5.1.7 Commencement Speaker - The Commencement Speaker Committee made selections regarding commencement. The President also discussed the selection with the deans and has reached out to the potential speakers and is awaiting a response. The proceedings are confidential, and I can't speak particulars at this point, but there were several nominations for political figures. I requested that we refrain from the practice of having politicians as commencement speakers due to the fact that they are polarizing, and no student should feel alienated right before the walk across the stage. The President has since requested that the Provost's Office review the entire process for selecting commencement speakers. While reviewing trends in commencement speakers along this focus, Debbie Hill found many schools opting for selecting a graduating student to give 'remarks' to and on behalf of the graduating class. Others have a nomination and/or selection process for a faculty or staff member to make the 'remarks'. Having multiple ceremonies each semester and selecting internal speakers provide us new opportunities to recognize the outstanding members of our University community and demonstrate the student-focused approach that Southern Miss is known for. This was discussed in the last Academic Leadership Council meeting. Deans were open to trying something new, but some expressed that discontinuing the practice of having an external speaker gives the impression that we cannot afford a speaker. The Provost disagreed with the view but is open to hearing all suggestions. If you have comments or suggestions, I must send them to Debbie Hill by April 15. Please send them to me by April 14. I'll compile and forward them on.

5.1.8 Firearms Policy Comments - Thank you to those who have already sent comments to me. Please remember that I need your comments by April 5.

5.1.9 Reminder: University Awards Day is May 1 in Trent Lott at 1:00. Alan Thompson and I are to meet with Cindy Davis and Allison Gillespie on Monday. I'll post a reminder to the listserv with the room number afterward.

5.2 President-Elect – Pres.-Elect Holt asked if Faculty Senate should send 4 representatives or 2 to Faculty Leadership Council. The general consensus of senators was to send two (President and President-Elect). One Senator stated that Gulf Coast Faculty Council should not have a representative until the relationship with administration is formalized.

Pres.-Elect Holt reported that there was a move by administration to push Gulf Coast SGA to join Hattiesburg SGA but Cost SGA are against it.

There is an issue about 492, 592, and similar courses related to independent study, student research hours, practicum hours, etc. These do not count toward faculty workload so are basically free work from faculty (even though students pay the same tuition).

Pres.-Elect Holt submitted a request to Sliman to let faculty have priority bandwidth for classes.

5.3 Secretary – No report

5.4 Secretary-Elect – No report

6.0 Old Business

## 7.0 New Business

- 7.1 Firearms Policy – There is concealed carry law that permits guns in public places but the controversy on campus is what is considered public and what is considered private. Several senators expressed concern about possible open carry gun laws and stated they would like to see a recommendation for a gun-free campus. One senator suggested we invite Toby Barker to speak to Faculty Senate about gun carry law and possible new legislation.

One senator suggested that until Faculty Senate can understand the wording of the law, we work on a more practical resolution about campus safety and more defensible offices and classrooms. Several senators remarked that there are no interior locks on most offices and classrooms and that this was a pressing need. The Welfare Committee was asked if they would work on this and the Chair, Sen. Hrostowski agreed.

- 7.2 Teaching Track Committee – The committee is working on levels of promotion for teaching faculty without terminal degree so that there will be two levels of non-tenure track teaching faculty – those with terminal degrees and those without terminal degrees. Pres.-Elect Holt stated that the wording should be voted on by Faculty Senate before being adopted by the Handbook Committee. He stated that Faculty Senate should review the final wording of the teaching track levels for faculty with terminal degrees but we have not seen the final version.

## 8.0 Committee Reports

### 8.1 Senate Committees

- 8.1.1 Academics – Sen Heitmuller reported they were working on an expanded definition of plagiarism and distributed a handout for Faculty Senate to review before it is forwarded to the Handbook Committee and Academic Standards Committee and Provost.
- 8.1.2 Awards – No report
- 8.1.3 Governance – No report
- 8.1.4 Finance – Sen. Zantow reported that the committee met with Dr. Vinzant and that there is a proposal for new bonds to fund capital improvement projects – proposed \$51 million over 4 years – for new and refurbished buildings on Hattiesburg campus and another \$8 million proposed for new and refurbished buildings on the Coast. A Coast feasibility group hired a consultant to help determine how best to go forward with planning residential housing on the Coast.
- 8.1.5 Handbook – Sen. Davis reported that the Teaching Track resolution was tabled for now. She also noted that the Committee has sent out information on this but it was not distributed or acted upon.  
Do interim years count toward number of years in a position? The committee voted yes.  
The 3-year pre-tenure probation period was discussed and whether it should be extended.  
A progressive disciplinary policy is being discussed.  
The committee voted that department chairs cannot serve as members of the department promotion committees (but can serve on department evaluation committees).

8.1.6 Administrative Evaluations – No formal report but several senators noted that the link to administration evaluation had been sent out via email. A number of senators reported they did not get the link.

8.1.7 University Relations – No report

8.1.8 Welfare and Environmental Concerns – Sen. Hrostowski reported that she met the new sustainability person Haley McMinn and she is working toward getting recycling bins in Trent Lott.

8.1.9 Elections – Sen. Alford reported that the election super-ballot was almost ready and should be distributed soon.

#### 8.2 Gulf Coast Faculty Council

Pres.-Elect Holt reported that students on the Coast were not happy with the administrative push for one SGA organization with 6 Gulf Coast student reps.

9.0 Sen. Zantow requested a closing remark and stated that there were only three Hattiesburg faculty who came to the Coast for the last Faculty Senate meeting. He expressed that next year he hoped that more meetings could be scheduled for the Coast, perhaps even the Faculty Senate Retreat in August.

Several senators remarked that they were not able to come because they taught classes on Friday. Pres.-Elect Holt noted that the President was going to present a proposal to the Deans about scheduling classes more consistently in Hattiesburg to match the Coast so that classes would be on M/W and T/Th and that extended classes could be scheduled on Fridays.

10.0 Adjournment – Sen. Rouse moved to adjourn at 4:04pm, seconded by Sen. Rehner, and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by  
Teresa S. Welsh, Ph.D.  
Faculty Senate Secretary